The Uruguary Round Agreement will enter into force, according to current expectations on 1.1.1995. Government propose to get the market access schedules on goods and services analysed in detail in order to identify the goods, services and markets having the greatest export potential for India. Such an analysis would assist in the formulation of appropriate policies with a view to maximising the benefits from the Uruguay Round Agreement.

Trade agreement with Japan

793. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas in which India has entered into agreement with Japan togeher with the separate details in respect of trade and industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that traders and industrialists of Japan prefer trade with Southern-Eastern countries vis-a-vis India and they have been making more investment in countries like Thailand and Malaysia;

(c) if so, whether Government have ascertained the causes regarding lower capital investment in India by Japan and whether any steps have been taken to remove those causes; and

(d) whether Government propose to take effective steps to attract Japanese investment in India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India has entered into agreement with Japan in the areas of Civil Aviation Culture, Trade, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Small Scale Industries, Science & Technology etc. The agreement of Commerce between India and Japan was signed on 4th Feb., 1953.

(b) As per Japanese statistics, their cumulative investment during 1951 to 1991 in India has been less than their investment in other countries of Asia.

(c) and (d) Various measures have been taken by Govt. of India to liberalise environment for foreign direct investment from abroad including Japan. Inter-alia, these include included industrial delicensing, removal of dividend balancing condition in majority industries, automatic approval procedure, fast-track FIPB mechanism etc.

Indo-Italian joint business Council meeting

794. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some meetings of Indo-Italian Joint Business Council was held in Rome during May, 1994;

(b) if so, details thereof with circumstances leading to such meetings;

(c) whether such meetings will boost bilateral trade between the two countries in some fields within some time schedule;

(d) if so, details thereof and if not reasons therefore;

(e) whether this meeting will also enhance the level of Italian investment in India as well as industrial collaborations; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The 8th Meeting of Indo-Italian Joint Business Council was held in Rome on 31.5.1994.

(b) to (f) Joint Business Councils meet periodically with a view to exploring greater business opportunities. Increased interaction between

India and Italian businessmen on such occasions create potential for higher levels of trade and investment between the two countries.

Export of sugar

795. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar was exported in 1993-94;

(b) if so, details thereof, country-wise with foreign exchange earned from each country;

(c) whether the sugar was exported in 1993-94, despite severe domestic shortages;

(d) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that severe domestic shortage of sugar shall exist during 1994-95;

(f) whether it is also a fact that export of sugar will be made during 1994-95; and

(g) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (g) In view of the domestic shortage situation exports were allowed during the sugar year 1993-94 only to the limited extent of meeting international obligations or other subsisting commitments. Exact details of these exports are being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House. As for the next sugar year, a view would be taken after a clear picture emerges of production and surpluses, if any, available for exports.

To ensure availability of sugar for domestic consumption, imports of sugar are presently being allowed without licence and at nil rates of duty. Besides, imports are also being undertaken on Government account for the public distribution system.

हीरों का निर्यात

796. **श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात के विशेष रूप से सूरत और सौराष्ट्र के हीरा उद्योग द्वारा वर्षवार कुल कितने मूल्य के हीरों का निर्यात किया गया है ;

(ख) गुजरात के हीरा उद्योग में काम कर रहे मजदूरों की कुल संख्या क्या है ; और

(ग) हीरों के निर्यात से अर्जित विदेशी मुद्रा में से गुजरात के हीरा उद्योग के विकास के लिए कुल कितना पूंजीनिवेश किया गया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) रत्न तथा आभूषणों (हीरों सहित) के निर्यात के राज्यवार आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते हैं।

(ख) गुजरात में हीरा उद्योग में कार्यरत कामगारों की संख्या लगभग 5 से 6 लाख होने का अनुमान है।

(ग) अर्जित विदेशी मुद्रा के बराबर की रुपयों में धनराशि निर्यातक अपने पास रखता है फिर भी सरकार इस उद्योग के हित में सहायता अनुदान दे रही है जो इस प्रकार है : सूरत में इंडियन डायमंड इस्टीट्यूट में रत्न/हीरा तराशने तथा पालिश के कार्य में कारीगरों को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए तथा रत्न और आभूषण निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद् को रत्न तथा आभूषण के क्षेत्र का विकास करने के लिए ।